

## **(Before the) Bell Work**

Bell work is "something" you give students to do before the bell rings and class starts. It takes about 3-5 minutes depending on when students arrive. It is an excellent first step for starting your class in a positive manner. The reasoning for using bell work is as follows

- instead of students talking to their friends (that can get quite noisy), they are quietly working on a problem
- you can focus students on the topic that will be covered in class
- you have a few quiet minutes to organize your thoughts and perhaps write down the outline before the class starts
- you can quickly start the class because it is quiet

## **Bell Work Examples**

- Ask students "Why would you need to learn ..." (e.g., about fractions, calculating area or volume) - This gets students thinking about why the topic is relevant.
- Ask students "Imagine a world without ..." - (e.g., without decimals, circles), What would this world be like?
- Ask students 1-2 review questions that were addressed in the previous class.
- Ask students a new question based on what will be addressed in the upcoming class. For example, you might ask them to add  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$  when they have never added fractions with different denominators. This gets students to use their ingenuity to solve new problems.
- Ask students a real world question that is related to the topic you are about to address. For example, you could ask them to estimate the number of pizzas they eat in a year when you are going to be talking about estimation.
- You can also use Bell Work to help improve basic skills (e.g., filling in a multiplication tables).
- Students could be asked to observe a PowerPoint slide and write down observations.